

ToughTimes

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Story and more photos on pages 8 & 9

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Proving you are you
Guns again
Need Legal Aid?

P2
P3
P4

Proudly different
ODSP muddle
Cricket big time
In the money

P5
P6
P7
P8

Labour pushes back
UP with minimum wage
Bye-bye stress

P9
P13
P15

*“I commend you for your publication. It is superb...
probably the best such publication in Canada.”*

Prof. John Ryan, senior scholar at University of Winnipeg

PEEL POVERTY ACTION GROUP

Peel Poverty Action Group (PPAG) is open to every individual and organization in Peel Region that cares about what poverty does to people. It provides a safe place where people who are cash-poor and those who try to help them are encouraged to speak out – and Tough Times is part of that safe place. PPAG's mandate is to advocate for people in need and to educate the public about poverty issues. Membership is free. PPAG meets at 9:30 a.m. to noon, usually the second Thursday of every month (except July and August) alternately in Mississauga and Brampton.

Meeting dates for 2019:

Mississauga, at the Newcomer Centre of Peel, 165 Dundas St. W., (at Confederation Parkway); Sept. 12; Nov 14.

Brampton, place to be fixed: Oct. 10; Dec. 12

Check PPAG's website for announcements.

www.ppag.wordpress.com

Advertising Rates

Tough Times distributes 10,000 copies, throughout Peel Region.

Target audience is people experiencing homelessness, using food banks and soup kitchens, people who are struggling, plus faith groups, social service agencies, trades unions, business people, and the general public.

To advertise in Tough Times:

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1/8 page: \$190
1/4 page: \$280
1/2 page: \$460
3/4 page: \$650
Full page: \$810

A full page is approximately 10 inches wide by 12 inches deep = 120 square inches. E&OE

You are who you can prove you are

We grow up learning essential facts about those who matter to us: our parents and families, our friends, idols and sports stars.

Being an adult means we need to do the same for ourselves.

Do you carry the minimum identity documents you need to function as an adult in today's world?

Let's look at two documents (or cards) you should have in your purse or wallet, with you at all times, and why.

Driver's License or Photo ID Card

Some cash is always nice inside your wallet or purse. But other essentials should be in your purse or wallet whenever you leave home.

If you drive, always have your up-to-date Ontario driver's license and a certificate of insurance with you. Not at home, but with you. In your possession, or in your vehicle, you must also have your Ontario vehicle registration certificate.

The Ontario driver's license is also your provincial government-issued proof of identity. If you don't drive, get an Ontario Photo ID Card. You can renew your driver's license, or get an Ontario photo ID card at any ServiceOntario outlet. You may have either a license, or a Photo ID Card, but not both. You can't appear to be in two places at once.

If you don't have either a driver's license or a photo ID card, and want to apply for one or the other, you will need to pass your driver's test for the license, and for either card, produce an original birth certificate, and original documentation that establishes your legal name, date of birth and signature. If you are applying under your married name, you will need your marriage certificate.

You need a 'foundation' piece of identification such as either the Ontario driver's license, or your Ontario Photo ID card to open a bank account, get a library card, board an aircraft, vote, or do a host of other essential activities. You should carry

one of these two cards in your purse or wallet every time you leave home.

If you are 18 or over and want to vote in the federal election Oct. 21, you will need proof of identity. People who are homeless may lack the proof. Bob Delaney will write about this problem in his next column.



Bob Delaney

A Photo OHIP Card

Adults past the age of 40 who have the old 'red-and-white' Ontario health card, replace it now! You need an up-to-date Ontario Health Card, also known as your OHIP Card. The old 'red-and-white' stripe card is ancient technology. If it is still accepted, you usually need to produce another piece of government ID to

show you are the person the card says you are.

If you haven't got an up-to-date OHIP Photo Card, get one now. It is the Province's opportunity to do a 'due-diligence' check to ensure you are still alive, you are who you say you are, you live in Ontario, and you are eligible for the OHIP card. See www.service-ontario.ca for details. You'll need to complete your registration form, which you can either download from the web or get at a ServiceOntario outlet, and have at least three pieces of ID.

An Ontario driver's license, an Ontario Photo ID Card, or a Canadian passport should be your government-issue photo ID to show that you make Ontario your home, and that you live in Ontario. You'll also need your original Canadian birth certificate or (if you were born outside Canada) your Permanent residency card to show OHIP eligibility. Finally, you'll need a document that supports your identity, such as a credit card, a gas or electricity bill, or a bank statement to support your identity.

After your application is accepted, your OHIP photo card takes about two weeks to arrive in the mail.

Streetsville resident Bob Delaney was Member of Provincial Parliament for Mississauga-Streetsville between 2003 and 2018

ToughTimes

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Homeless: The Video

Spaces and Places: Uncovering Homelessness in the Region of Peel is a 15-minute video in which homeless people describe their experiences. A team from PPAG, including a once-homeless person, will show the video to a group on request. There is no charge. To book a showing contact edna.toth@gmail.com. Allow about 45 minutes for the video and discussion.

The video was made by a team from York University, in cooperation with the Social Planning Council of Peel, financed by a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Taking aim at guns

Ruby Sahota, MP for Brampton North, is concerned about the increase in crime in Brampton – especially gun and gang violence.

Sahota, a member of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security, asked Bill Blair, Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction, how Peel Regional Police could access a federal investment of \$65 million made to combat illegal guns and gangs in Ontario.

Blair, a former Toronto Police Chief, clarified: funding to fight illegal guns and gangs is provided by the federal government, the Ontario government decides when and where to invest the money.

“It’s interesting that the Conservatives like to pretend they are hard on crime, but Ontario Conservatives have only spent \$11 million of the available \$65 million, even though communities like Brampton are desperate for funding as crime is increasing year after year,” said Sahota.

“Despite claiming to be ‘tough on crime’, the federal Conservatives have promised to eliminate our new common-sense gun laws without any common-sense crime prevention strategies to replace it.”

The common-sense approach

The Liberal government in Ottawa

amended the Firearms Act last year, so that licensing is required for most guns, and for ammunition. Crossbows, too.

Individuals may be prohibited from having a gun:

- if involved in a violent crime or threat within the previous five years;
- if treated for mental illness involving violence, attempted violence or threats;
- has a history of violence or attempted violence.

Everyone who has a gun must complete the Canadian Firearms Safety Course and pass a test.

To possess prohibited firearms or restricted firearms, you must complete a Restricted Firearms Safety Course and pass a restricted firearms safety test.

Special consideration is given to individuals who hunt to feed themselves or family, or to make a living.

And here’s a common-sense command:

- Don’t give or lend a gun to anybody who is impaired by drug or alcohol
- You may have a handgun to protect your own or somebody else, if you need it for work, as part of a collection if you are an approved collector.
- A gun collector must have historical, technological, or scientific knowledge of guns, keep guns safely, and agree to periodic inspections.

- When someone applies for a licence to have a gun, a local Firearms Officer may talk to neighbours, community workers, social workers, individuals who work or live with the applicant, spouse or common-law partner, former spouse or former common-law partner, dependants, and more.

It’s just to make sure everybody is safe.

The notes above are a quick visit to the current Firearms Act. They are not legal advice. You can read the Act for yourself online: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/F-11.6/index.html>

PCs speak up

Speaking in Brampton in November, 2018, federal Conservative leader Andrew Scheer said: “A Conservative government will take action to make it



easier for police to target gang members and put them where they belong: behind bars.”

He presented five proposals: ending automatic bail for gang members; identifying gangs in the Criminal Code; re-

voking parole for gang members; tougher sentences for ordering gang crime; new sentences for violent gang crime.

In speeches elsewhere, he touched on gun laws: “Blanket gun bans will do nothing to curb gun violence, only make criminals of firearms owners who already follow the law.”

Conservative changes:

Prison time for knowingly possessing a smuggled gun; creating a Firearms Smuggling Task Force; temporary gun seizures for detained mental health patients; lifetime firearms ban for violent and gang criminals; new penalties for selling guns to prohibited users.

U.S. influence on Canada’s guns

Canada’s Coalition for Gun Control reports that Canada is safer than the United States, but has the fourth highest rate of gun deaths among the 36 nations in the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD).

The Coalition reports that in 2004, Canada had 384,000 restricted weapons, mostly handguns, and adds: “Today, there are almost one million legally owned handguns in Canada.”

Some Canadian gun advocates parrot the U.S., claiming that their gun “rights” are threatened.

“Not only do we have to fight U.S. guns coming over the border, but we have to resist notions of arming for self-protection and the influence of the powerful National Rifle Association, which has no place in Canada,” the Coalition notes.

NEED FOOD?

غذا درکار ہے؟
 ਭੋਜਨ ਦੀ ਜ਼ਰੂਰਤ?
 需要食物吗?
 Cần thực phẩm?
 هل تحتاج إلى الطعام?
 ¿Necesita comida?



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If you don't have enough money for food and live in Mississauga, you can go to a neighbourhood food bank.

It doesn't matter about your age, gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, or immigration status. You will receive enough healthy food to feed your family for 7-10 days each month. There is no cost to visit a food bank.

Find your food bank at
www.themississaugafoodbank.org
 or phone 905.270.5589.



Ford Government's math doesn't add up

NEITHER DO ITS PROMISES

BY JACK FLEMING

The Ford government's cuts to Legal Aid funding are hurting the most vulnerable Ontarians.

Is this what a government "for the people" looks like?

Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) provides many different services, including certificates to pay for lawyers to represent people in courts, advice lawyers and duty counsel. LAO also funds community legal clinics, such as North Peel & Dufferin Community Legal Services and Mississauga Community Legal Services.

Legal clinics assist vulnerable people with the basic essentials of life: keeping a roof over their heads and some money to put food on the table. We help people who are facing eviction, terrible repair issues in their rental housing, loss of a job, denial of disability benefits and many other serious legal problems.

Our services are free of charge.

Legal Aid Ontario also helps people

with serious legal challenges, including those in criminal law, family law, mental health hearings, and children's aid cases.

The people served by Legal Aid and by community legal clinics are all low income Ontarians.

The two Peel legal clinics serve 22% of Ontario's low income population. The population we serve are mostly immigrants and racialized.

This fiscal year (retroactive to April 1), the government is cutting its funding to Legal Aid by \$133m which is 36%. The budget for the Ministry of the Attorney General is being cut 7% this year – 86% of that cut is coming from LAO. Has the Attorney General no other place else to find savings other than on the backs of low income Ontarians?

The amount of the budget cutback for LAO rises to \$164M in 2022-23 (44% cut). Legal Aid represents 10% of a \$5 billion justice sector but will be shouldering over 50% of the cuts after three years of slash and burn.

The government acknowledged that it was too difficult for municipalities to implement a 4% budget reduction retroactively and deferred that cut to next year. It defies logic to say at the same time that LAO can retroactively implement a 36% cut.

Why is this government targeting Legal Aid? The reason given by the Attorney General and by the Premier is that although LAO has had increased funding in recent years, they were serving fewer people. That was a false statement.

The Auditor General's report clearly shows that the number of people helped has increased: 2013-14 to 2017-18 the number of certificates issued increased 23%. Presumably the Attorney General was given false data by her staff as she would not knowingly make false statements. Perhaps some savings could be found among Ministry staff instead of at LAO? She now knows that was a false statement. What justification can there be now for slashing Legal Aid's budget?

The Premier has repeatedly said that the government's budget cuts will not result in a loss of front line services. That is clearly not the case for LAO and legal clinics. Legal clinics are small non-profit organizations with community based boards of directors. All of the staff are front line staff. Almost every penny of funding goes to personnel and rent (the remaining small amount pays for the phones, printers, etc.). It is impossible for legal clinics to have cuts this deep without losing

staff and therefore reducing services. The budget repeatedly stated "promise made, promise kept". What will happen to legal clinics is "promise made, promise broken".

At the time of writing, we still do not know what the specific impact will be on individual community legal clinics. Legal Aid has said that it will cut the total budget for legal clinics by 16% this year (and more next year) and that the cut will not be evenly distributed across clinics. They have not yet given legal clinics their individual budgets for the year. Until we get the funding decisions, we cannot make specific plans but we anticipate that there will be job losses and that will mean that services will be cut.

Either we will have to stop providing help with some areas of law (for example, no longer offering employment law assistance) or cut back the level of assistance (for example, just providing advice instead of representing someone at a court or tribunal).

The people who will be hurt are the most vulnerable Ontarians.

The single mom and her kids facing eviction, the immigrant unable to get work in his field now facing termination from the menial job he did get here, the homeless schizophrenic person cut off from Ontario Disability Support Program benefits.

This government "for the people" is not for these people.

Jack Fleming is Executive Director of North Peel & Dufferin Community Legal Services



Deepak Anand, leads a clean-up crew in the Mississauga-Malton riding that he represents in the Ontario Legislature. All participants got gloves and garbage bags, safety vests and trash pickers, and the opportunity to take part in cleanups every month. Useful background for Anand: He has a degree in chemical engineering and is producer and host of a local radio show. (Photo supplied)

THERE'S AN ELECTION COMING

Demand social justice!

A federal election takes place Monday, October 21.

It has never been more important than now to spread the word about poverty and social movements in Peel Region. Liking us on Facebook is an easy way to help. *Tough Times* will send the latest videos and articles about activism and social justice in Peel straight to your newsfeed.

Also go to ToughTimesTabloid.ca – the only place where you can find videos and articles about poverty, activism, and social justice right here in Peel.

If you or your organization are fighting for social justice in Peel Region, let *Tough Times* spread the word about you. Email us at ToughTimesTabloid@gmail.com

From Chris Fotos, Online Editor



About 1,000 people attended Brampton's first Community Iftar at the Rose Theatre and Garden Square, celebrating the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. The event included recitations from the Quran, songs, stories, dancing, speeches, and dinner, as the community broke their fast – traditionally, the community does not eat during the day during Ramadan. (Photo by the City of Brampton)



Being proud of our differences

BY JASPAL BRAR

The month of June is officially recognized as Pride Month and June 21st was the National Indigenous Peoples Day in Canada.

The Day is a celebration of the cultures and heritage of Indigenous People and the day corresponds with the summer solstice -- which is the longest day of the year. For generations many Indigenous Peoples groups have celebrated their culture and heritage at this time of the year.

Pride Month is just as important and is celebrated by members of the LGBTQ community. Some common symbols associated with Pride are the Rainbow Flag, The Pink Triangle, The Black Triangle and the Greek letter Lambda in lowercase: λ

The lambda Triangles were badges of shame used during Nazi Germany which had gay men forced to wear the Pink Triangle on their clothing and the lesbian women forced to have the Black Triangle on their clothing. These symbols have now been adopted by the LGBTQ community to demonstrate unity, pride, shared values and allegiance to one another.

Why is this important to labour?

Well, when we look at the working class we see us as one, we don't create divisions amongst ourselves. In fact we create unity. It is only when we stand collectively together that we can take on the real issues at hand -- issues such as corporate greed, attacks on our education systems, attacks on our public healthcare and attacks on our pensions.

We know that corporate greed will not stop at finding ways to make higher profits, even to the detriment of the workers who help the corporations get wealthy.

We elect new governments in the hope that they will change and enact laws for all Canadians, so people can earn a livable wage and work in safe environments.

At times some governments have their own agendas, where they do not care so much for the workers but are there to benefit corporations.

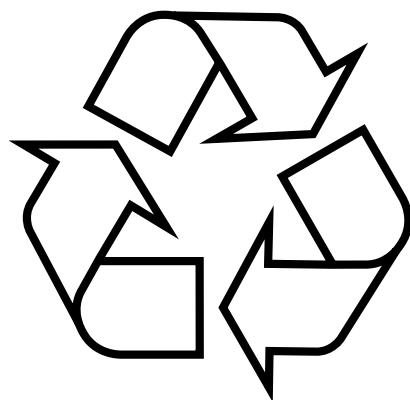
Just as a person's sexual orientation or their heritage should not be a cause to shun them, we must recognize

that whether corporate supporters, or labour supporters, we are all members of the human race, who should stand together as allies.

If we are not united and remain occupied with our own biases, we become divided and are vulnerable to attacks upon each other.

Much work must be done to create a better society and we can do it by standing together and enjoying each other's rich cultures, religions, backgrounds of race and history in order to live in a more harmonious world.

Jaspal Brar is president of Unifor Local 1285, with headquarters in Brampton.



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THE REMARKABLE CITIZEN AWARDS*



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*Deadline is June 7, 2019

Deepak Anand
MPP/Député



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VISIT DEEPAKANAND.CA & NOMINATE TODAY

Climate change on the Credit

The Green Party has launched *Mission: Possible*, to reduce fossil fuel use to zero by 2050. Bye-bye coal, oil, gasoline, and hello local gardens, re-planted forests, and more electricity, including electric cars and buses.

The Greens want to put Canada “on something equivalent to a war footing to ensure the security of our economy, our children and their children – our future.”

Victory lies in ensuring that the average temperature of Earth does not rise more than 1.5 degrees C over pre-Industrial Revolution levels.

Says the Green plan: “An increase of two degrees is far too dangerous. Somewhere below two degrees is the

tipping point that plunges us into runaway global warming – a self-accelerating, irreversible spiral leading to the loss of our hospitable biosphere and the potential extinction of most species on earth, including us. Holding to 1.5 degrees is not negotiable. It is do or die.”

The Greens spell it out: persuade all parties to work together as they did during World War II, stop using fossil fuels to produce electricity, all cars to run on electricity by 2040, better train and bus services fuelled by electricity, more solar panels, reduce emissions from international shipping, aviation and the military, design housing to withstand the climate, and more



The Credit River in peaceful mode. (Tough Times photo)

Ford in a muddle with ODSP math

BY KIM NORTHCOTE

Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) provides cash to help people with disabilities meet living expenses for themselves and their families. Prescription drugs and vision care may also be covered, and help with finding and keeping a job.

Now, Ontario Premier Doug Ford wants to overhaul ODSP. But he is going the wrong way about it.

Currently, ODSP reduces the amount of cash it gives to people with disabilities when they earn above a certain level. Ford wants to raise the earnings permitted before reductions kick in from \$2400 a year to \$6000 a year. But benefits will be reduced by 75%, against the current 50%.

Do the math: The larger reductions outweigh the benefit of the higher exemption. Beneficiaries could earn more, but the higher reductions would strip all benefits from recipients earning over \$24,704, compared to \$30,456 if reductions remained at 50%.

Taking any earnings away from people with disabilities is questionable, especially considering that for many recipients, ODSP barely covers rent. (ODSP allots \$498 a month for rent—about half the cost of most GTA rentals.)

As former Conservative Senator Hugh Segal points out, programs like ODSP and Ontario Works haven’t significantly reduced poverty.

“They have helped people in poverty manage a little better, but because of the disincentives built into ODSP rules, it actually discourages people from finding work...” Indeed, having over half of your earnings taken by the government is discouraging.

It’s hard to miss the irony of Lisa McLeod, who was heading a lot of the changes as Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services up until very recently, claiming the new 75% clawback policy was meant to alleviate an existing “cycle of dependency”. It only deepens it.

The Income Security Advocacy Centre (ISAC) is troubled by the proposed changes. ISAC’s research and policy analyst Jennefer Laidley points out that the income of ODSP recipients’ partners or spouses is counted as the recipient’s income, making it subject to deductions. Recipients will “earn their way out of the system” at a lower income than before, leaving them without the medical benefits they rely on.

The majority of ODSP recipients’ jobs don’t provide benefits or insurance, and the \$24,704 income that disqualifies them from the system is hardly sufficient to pay for medical needs, especially for those whose condition results in costly medical treatment or equipment.

The new policy is “putting people behind the eight-ball. It is completely counter to the policy objective the gov-

ernment is trying to achieve,” Laidley asserts.

Ford may also change the Health Spending Account to provide recipients with a lump sum for medical needs. This may reduce red tape, as beneficiaries must currently submit a request for each disability-related cost -- mobility, medical equipment and repairs, diet, guide dogs, medication -- but ISAC fears the lump sum won’t cover costs.

The Ontario ministry may bring ODSP qualifications in line with federal programs such as Canada Pension Plan’s disability benefits (CPP-D), where a disability must be “severe and prolonged”. Changing criteria to resemble federal programs would make it more difficult to qualify for ODSP, and exclude episodic or short-term disabilities.

Kyle Vose, PHA (People Having AIDS/HIV) Engagement Coordinator for the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation, says “...the government’s new definition of disability means that HIV-positive citizens will be excluded, making medication inaccessible and increasing the risk of the virus being spread.” Those who don’t fit the new definition but are already on ODSP will be grandfathered, but the new policy will shut out many future applicants.

“Many people with mental and physical illnesses will be without medication and treatment because of these

changes, resulting in an exponential increase in suffering, and a devastating cost to our healthcare system.”

“There are many people who apply for ODSP are not accepted on their first try, if at all. ODSP is set up to deny people by design, hard to get on at first try,” notes Vose. “People who don’t have a connection to service agencies to help them through the process are more than likely to be rejected.” Many applicants also face language barriers, reliance on walk-in clinics because they can’t get a family doctor, and inconsistent advice about benefits and the application process.

This causes bureaucratic inefficiency as well, as those rejected from ODSP are in limbo and up collecting from Ontario Works, but remain unable to seek or hold employment because of a disability. Ontario Works provides less income than ODSP and doesn’t cover disability-related needs like medical equipment or special diets. Many people who need ODSP are using Ontario Works. Further restricting the definition of disability will make this problem worse.

As of February, 2019, ODSP has 515,891 beneficiaries. What will happen to them if Ford restricts ODSP access and takes income away?

Kimberly Northcote has a BA in Criminal Justice and Public Policy from the University of Guelph.

Big time cricket could bowl us over!

Canada's largest cricket tournament is coming to Brampton July 25 to Aug. 11

Brampton is host to the Global T20 (GT20) Cricket Tournament from July 25 to August 11 this year.

It's an important event.

The City's 12 city-owned cricket fields and its four minor fields will be put to full use, plus Brampton has three more cricket projects under way.

The GT20, an annual event, had its first Canadian airing in King City last year. Promotional verbiage today says the Brampton event could “catapult cricket as the world's leading sport “with continued growth in broadcast viewership.”

Canada's cricket history goes back to the 1800s when it took part in the first official international match in North America.



The bowling is fast and the batsman is waiting for a hit – ball or wicket. (Photo courtesy of GT20)

Mississauga's Mayor is on a mission

BY RANGA RAJAH

Homelessness is no longer a hidden in Mississauga.

Here's an example:

It's around 3 p.m. at Hurontario and Eglinton, and two middle-aged men are exchanging strong words, according to residents in the nearby townhouse complex.

These men and others are homeless and they ask for money at intersections from Eglinton to Square One.

You can tell where they have been by the empty garbage bags, empty cans and water bottles, and cardboard signs left behind.

This is just one area for homeless folk to beg. The exits from major highways are also popular spots to ask for cash.

So what is Mississauga doing to help homeless people?

Tough Times asked Mayor Bonnie Crombie. And this is what she said:

As Mayor, I have made it my mission to ensure that Mississauga remains affordable for all and that our city remains a place where everyone has the opportunity to live a good life and to prosper.

The Region of Peel oversees social services in Mississauga, including shelters, several of them in Mississauga, serving people of all ages and circumstances. We understand that longer-term housing solutions are needed.

Some simpler problems are solved through an Open Window Hub based in Central Library, where a qualified social worker provides information and help to anyone who needs it. He also seeks out marginalized and at-risk groups such as homeless people, to introduce them to library programs and services which are often free and

easily accessible.

For people with no fixed address, replacement or renewal of health cards, or Ontario birth certificates, or identification alone, can be a barrier to housing. This is where the library can help.

We will continue to tackle poverty, build affordable housing for low and middle-income earners, and ensure that as Mississauga grows and prospers, no one is left behind.

The City wants to ensure that there are more long-term, permanent housing options for everyone. As a City we are committed to this and will continue to look at increasing options including second units and rental housing.

We are committed to supportive planning policies and regulations that encourage a range of housing types and sizes, adopting by-laws that

regulate affordable buildings. Some examples are the Rental Housing Protection By-law and Demolition Control By-law.

We appeal to other levels of government for changes to policies and programs and for financial support to improve the situation in Mississauga.

Are the groups around Hurontario intersections an indicator of growing homelessness in Mississauga?

Homelessness can be present in any community. We need to understand the underlying factors and needs of people to ensure we provide effective services to our residents through the Region of Peel. We want to ensure that every member of our city has a roof over their head and nutritious meals.

I will continue to host my annual Mayor's Food Drive to help ensure that no one in our city goes hungry.

Let's process our raw materials into jobs for all

BY FARINA HASSAN

The Bank of Canada is primarily responsible for keeping inflation under control and to lend money to the government of Canada and various financial institutions. This enables institutions to keep their books balanced and avoids collapse of the banking system.

Since its inception of Bank of Canada has bailed out financial institutions and the Canadian government many times, from the time of Great Depression to World War Two, to the economic collapse of 1979-80. It has a governor who oversees the operations of the bank, its fiscal and monetary policy and keeping the interest rate affordable. It is audited by an independent audit company.

The Bank of Canada is controlled by the federal government through the Finance Minister, whose task includes recommending the independent auditor.

The finance minister and the Bank of Canada are jointly responsible for fiscal and monetary policy of the country, keeping inflation in control, a lending rate within guidelines, and having enough cash flow to pay off debts, maintain social and economic programs and create overall economic activity.

COMER, the Committee on Monetary and Economic Reform, is a private group that wants to raise awareness about the Bank of Canada, and calls on federal government to resume borrowing from the Bank of Canada at minimum or no interest. This would allow the Government of Canada to be virtually interest-free on its debts and have more cash available to pay for social programs.

Similarly, author Joyce Nelson, has

recommended printing more cash. The Canadian government can print as much cash as required to pay off our debts. This would allow the Bank of Canada to provide funding to all levels of government and meet our fiscal and expenditure demands.

After a global meltdown in 2008, Canada had to deal with numerous cuts and austerity measures, which has left families struggling. So why doesn't the government ask the Bank of Canada to print more Canadian dollars and pay off all our debts? And why is the government not borrowing all their money from the Bank of Canada at zero-to-no interest rate? This seems like a simple solution to a huge problem.

The answer lies in supply and demand of currency. If the Bank of Canada resumes lending to the government of Canada, then the Bank needs cash to lend. The only way to generate that is by either printing more money or issuing bonds or treasury bills. But the return on bonds can be significantly higher if obtained from private banks, so few people will want government-issued bonds.

On the other hand, if we print cash to pay off our debts, the supply of money increases, people will have more money to buy products, resulting in increases in the price of goods, further resulting in an increase in inflation and more expensive goods and services.

Another source of cash flow for the Bank of Canada would be lending money to entrepreneurs/small business owners, a task currently done through the Business Development Bank of Canada, which charges up to 12% depending on the applicant.

This increased revenue for the Bank

generated a small profit last year; however, it is not sustainable or lucrative for longer periods, due to defaults, few applicants, and few businesses qualifying for loans.

We can reduce private banks' ability to create more money by increasing their reserve, but this will only affect Canadian chartered banks directly. Subsidiaries of overseas banks are not necessarily governed under the same rule and might not follow our process while due to the increase in global business, we need banks to be able to transact with one another. Stringent regulations would make it difficult for Canadian charter banks to operate in the international market.

So, what do we do? We need to reduce our debts, pay for public infrastructure, strengthen our social programs and increase economic activities. The usual austerity programs involving cuts to social programs and privatization is not the answer for our social democratic welfare state.

The answer lies in a mixture of better controlled monetary policies and increasing taxes. By increasing taxes of corporations, government can generate more revenue and cover cost.

This can be achieved by having a balanced approach towards monetary policy - including control of interest rates, inflation rate, amount of currency in the market and overall strong economic investment. Instead of extracting raw materials, the government should invest in processing these raw materials within Canada, creating further jobs, reducing our imports of finished goods, increasing our exports and increasing our Gross Domestic Product (GDP). An overall win-win for everyone involved.

Canada owns a bank all its own. It's called the Bank of Canada

In March 1935, the Bank of Canada opened its doors as a privately owned institution, with shares sold to the public. Then, in 1938, it became publicly owned as it is today.

Until 1974, the Bank lent money to Canadian governments at low interest -- interest that in any case went back to the Canadian people via the government.

The Bank of Canada financed the St. Lawrence Seaway, the Trans-Canada Highway, the production of weapons, ships, and more for World War Two, Toronto's first subways, and other useful things, most of them still in public ownership.

In 1974, a consortium of private banks was formed in Basel, Switzerland, and Canada along with other nations, switched its borrowing there.

The Bank of Canada stopped building the nation, retaining only the job of keeping inflation under control.

Now, Canada is paying interest-on-the-interest it must pay to Basel, and scrimping on social services here at home to do it.

There's another state-owned bank in North America -- the Bank of North Dakota, dubbed "socialist". Total assets are \$7 billion. Population of North Dakota: 760,000.

This bank has made record profits for the last 15 years, net earnings of \$160m in 2018, with a return on investments of 18%.

It provides funds for building schools, upgrading roads, improving health care facilities, as well as business and home loans to local borrowers.

COMER – Committee of Monetary and Economic Reform – is a group of Canadians currently campaigning to have the Bank of Canada resume its lending role.

LABO



OUR PUSHES BACK

When trade unions take a hit, everybody gets slammed. That's part of the message Peel members and supporters of the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) presented at a rally beside Mississauga City Hall.

Vital services are on the line, demonstrators declared. Cuts to education, health care from emergency medical services to public health, child care, increasing housing costs, all impact working people – and even more those who have been laid off, or can't get jobs.

The demonstrators were clear: they want the rich to pay a fair share of taxes, to ensure that Canadian families have the services they need to care for Ontario's children and to help all Ontarians prosper.

They declared: Attacks on workers' rights must end. Workers across Ontario are ready to restore public services, to oppose cutbacks and privatization.

The OFL represents a million workers and 54 trades unions in Ontario.



Photos by JERRY JAROSZ, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers



Keeping the wheels turning

Biking makes you fit, as shown by these young folk pedaling their way around Mississauga. The City has produced a handbook on biking. Pick it up at your nearest community centre. *(Photos by City of Mississauga)*

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,
I recently found myself penniless in Brampton. This letter is to thank the local lady – don't know her name or where she lives -- who provided the \$2 needed to pay for parking, so I would not be trapped in the City Hall underground parking lot.

It was the one day in a long life that I did not carry banknotes, coins, credit cards, Tim's Rewards, driver's licence, library card, health card, and a note that donates my body to science when I no longer need it.

I found these documents safe at home when I arrived there, thanks to the charming Brampton lady who made the return trip possible.

To mark her kindness, I have sent a \$20 donation to Knights Table, the Brampton soup kitchen which serves meals to people who also find themselves without banknotes, coins, or credit cards, and in many cases, don't have a home to keep either themselves or their belongings.

Thank you, anonymous benefactor.

Edna Toth

Mississauga Citizen of the Year, 2011

Hepatitis C Treatment, Care & Support Is Available

You can be at risk if:

- Sharing of personal care and hygiene items such as razors, toothbrushes, clippers and scissors with someone living with hepatitis C
- Sharing needles used for body tattoos and piercings. Reusing and sharing tattoo ink and ink pots
- Sharing drug equipment such as needles, filters, tourniquets, water, syringes, cookers, alcohol swabs, acidifiers
- Receive blood and body organs that have not been screened for hepatitis C. Even in Canada, if you received blood and organ donations before 1990 you may be at risk.
- Involved in medical procedures including immunization in hepatitis C endemic countries



Bloom Clinic

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Bloom Clinic
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Phone: 905-451-6959 | mail@bramaleachc.ca



Call today for information or to book a free test.

Join the Lived Experience Table

- Are you a resident of Brampton, Mississauga or Caledon?
- Do you have lived/living experience with poverty?
- Do you want to make a difference?
- If you answered yes to all these questions, the Peel Poverty Reduction Committee is inviting you to get involved and have your voice heard.

We are looking for individuals who have lived or living experience with poverty in Peel, and would like to join the Lived Experience Table.



Ways to apply:

Online:

surveymonkey.com/r/Livedexperienceapplication

Email:

poverty@peelregion.ca

Telephone:

905-791-7800, ext. 8782



Awareness. Inclusion.
Access. Opportunity.



Bees on the roof of Mississauga City Hall
(Photo supplied by City of Mississauga)



(Photo by Tough Times)

BEE-have around bees

Mississauga is bent on becoming a Bee City, a-buzz with bees pollinating flowers, weeds, trees, and shrubs all over town.

Pollination enables plants to produce seeds and fruit and Mississauga councillors believe the work of bees contributes to residents' good health, so there's a hive on the roof of City Hall.

Mississauga has 23 other pollinator projects buzzing along, including com-

munity gardens.

Local gardeners, too, are encouraged to create bee bases in their own backyard.

But bees have a downside:

They can sting!

Advisors at City Hall say: When dealing with bees, "Let them bee."

And they add: "Bees only sting if they feel threatened, so give bees space, and don't try to touch them."

OPINION PIECE

Hope ahead for single moms

If Mississauga secedes from Peel Region, what will happen to cash-poor people here?

People who are homeless – living in the woods or in alleyways, doorways, anywhere they can find space – and living rough for days and nights on end, can't be much worse off than they are now.

A single person relying on Ontario Works gets \$733 a month, for rent and food and staying alive.

A single mother with one child gets \$1,119 a month.

If her little one wants to take part in a sports team, there's a fee. Although many of these events are subsidized by taxpayers (including the single mom through her rent) the chances of her child taking part are not good, because taking part requires time and money, and it's not there.

Tough Times and Peel Poverty Action Group attach some hopes to Mississauga being a separate entity:

Mayor Bonnie Crombie wants to take Mississauga out of the Peel collective.

She has a good business head and a heart that even Doug Ford would find difficult to ignore.

And somebody has to get through to Ford that people can't live on next to nothing.

Bonnie can get through to him on behalf of the men and women who are getting older and more in need, on behalf of single moms who want a fair share for their children, on behalf of people whose disabilities don't disappear over the years.

Bonnie will get them humane treatment, which they certainly are not getting from the province now.

'Standards that support the public interest'



Excerpt from a letter from MP Jody Wilson-Raybould, Q.C. to Liberal MPs, after the SNC-Lavalin affair, but before she was removed from the Liberal caucus.

There were many reasons I ran for the Liberal Party of Canada in 2015, including commitments on addressing climate change, the challenges of our criminal justice system, Indigenous reconciliation, and building an economy that supported all Canadians.

For me, and I believe for our Party, all of these progressive policy commitments had underlying them a firm belief in the need for a transformation in our political culture, and the pursuit of a more responsive, representative, and less partisan approach to the governing of the country.

This commitment to a changed politics was not just about specific policies, such as proportional representation, but about every aspect of how we organize ourselves to govern, and the responsibilities that each of us carry.

We committed to break old and cynical patterns of centralizing power in the hands of a few unelected staffers, the marginalization of hundreds of Members of Parliament with expertise and insights to offer, and the practice of governing in the shad-

ows, out of sight of Canadians.

I believed we were going to uphold the highest standards that support the public interest, and not simply make choices to create partisan advantage.

As part of committing to this transformative and progressive path, we were also committing to a government and caucus that represented all Canadians.

Diverse and inclusive, our Caucus was to be a microcosm of Canada not just geographically, but demographically.

Indeed, I believe we understood that to build a stronger Canada, we needed to reflect that Canada. This includes the challenges, opportunities, tensions, and insights that arise when seeking to forge a common path and understanding in a context of real diversity and difference.

This is a vision that reflects the future. Young people identify in dozens of different ways before they identify with a political party and they privilege diversity of experience, background, and belief and upholding the experiences of all, over simply following the paths laid out with those who claim to hold power.

Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould, P.C., Q.C., Member of Parliament for Vancouver-Granville

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Labour Community Services of Peel

BY CHRIS FOTOS

If you are a minimum wage worker, your wallet is lighter than it should be right now. The minimum wage was supposed to go from \$14 an hour to \$15 an hour in January, but Premier Doug Ford scrapped the raise when he took office in August, 2018.

There's a lot of rhetoric in favour of Ford's move, but most of it amounts to junk economics that ignores reality.

Take the automation argument for example. It goes like this: if you raise the minimum wage, business owners will fire workers and automate jobs en masse.

This argument rests on a silly assumption: that businesses are holding off on automation because they don't have enough incentive. Raising the minimum wage, the story goes, will give them the push they need.

In the real world, however, business owners already have every incentive to automate. Android and iOS devices have a kiosk mode that can automate many customer service jobs at an operating cost of virtually zero, and more advanced systems (like the ones now seen in most McDonalds locations) might have licensing fees of around \$500 a month which, if the system operates 40 hours a week, works out to about \$1.80/hr. This means that we could cut the minimum wage by three quarters and labour still wouldn't have a chance at competing with automation. So how could suppressing minimum wage possibly slow automation?

In spite of conservative hand-wringing, raising the minimum wage won't turn Ontario into an

apocalyptic wasteland overrun by gun-toting quick order kiosks. "But let's face it," say conservative uncles at Sunday dinners across Peel, "minimum wage work doesn't deserve more than it's already paid."

A simple question reveals the absurdity behind this line of reasoning: what exactly does it mean to 'deserve' a certain wage? If you ask five different people, you'll get five different answers. That's because arguments about 'who deserves what' are completely subjective. They're based on feelings, not numbers.

So if abstract ideas like 'deserve' are all but meaningless, how can we tell what labour should be paid? Here's a crazy idea: let's start by looking at how much value workers actually produce. In the U.S., the average worker generates \$60/hr. That's right, if you're an average worker, you produce \$60 in value for every hour worked. And if you're the average Canadian you only take home about \$23 — the remaining \$37 goes to owners and stockholders who didn't do any of the labour required to generate that value. Until the late seventies, wages

rose with value produced. Since then wages have stagnated while productivity has skyrocketed. If the minimum wage still rose with productivity, it'd be in the low 20's today.

The low 20's? That's a lotta dough. Aren't minimum wage jobs meant for high school kids? Why would a teenager need that much money?

This sophisticated argument can be

debunked by anyone who's ever eaten a Big Mac between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. when high school kids are, well, at school. If I were to design a job 'meant for' high school students, I'd probably want to

make sure that my busiest operating hours weren't ones that high school students couldn't work. Side note: what does it even mean for a job to be 'meant for' a certain kind of person? Jobs are 'meant' to produce value for companies.

Let's put the obvious aside for a moment and pretend that we actually need statistics to debunk this lazy narrative. According to a 2018 study by Statscan, 47.7% of minimum wage workers are aged 25-65. The idea that minimum

wage jobs are for teenagers is simply not substantiated by the numbers.

Now let's turn our attention toward the perennial conservative fearmongering supposedly rooted in the 'science' of economics. "It's basic economics" scoffs the keyboard economist. "If you raise the minimum wage, you'll only get rampant inflation and unemployment."

Except that isn't what happens.

Economic models often don't line up with reality, and it's an open secret that classical economics is mostly ruling-class ideology dressed in science clothing. So let's turn away from contrived supply and demand curves and toward, say, Seattle, which gradually upped its minimum wage from \$9.47 in 2015 to \$15 today.

Initially, economists sounded the alarm bells, predicting that inflation would skyrocket and low wage earners would be left jobless. But now those same economists are scrambling to explain why the opposite happened: most workers earned more and very few earned less after the minimum wage went up.

It's clear that so-called 'common-sense' arguments against minimum wage hikes aren't rooted in reality, and their grim predictions almost never come true.

In truth, they're just one more tactic used by the ruling class to ensure that the working class keeps voting against its own interests.

Chris Fotos is completing a degree in philosophy at York University, and is Online Editor of Tough Times, Peel's only social justice newspaper.

UP with the minimum wage



More good deeds

Brampton soup kitchen Knights Table is setting up its own Pay it Forward campaign, starting Saturday, July 27.

Pay It Forward means that when someone does a good deed for you, you pay it forward by doing a good deed for someone else. That someone else does a good deed for someone else and on and on. The idea comes from the movie Pay It Forward, based on a book.

Knights Table and Peel Region will proclaim July 27 as a special Pay It Forward Day in Peel, when everyone is invited to do a small act of kindness for a homeless person.

It could be a donation to help Knights Table provide meals for people who can't provide for themselves. Or giving good shoes to someone who needs them. Or providing clean clothes.

Knights Table can tell you about needs. Just ask.

Phone (905) 454-8725

Knights Table is at 4-287 Glidden Road, Brampton, east off Kennedy, two lights north of Steeles.

Pay it forward

Saturday, July 27, 2019

Do a good deed for a homeless person

Sponsored by Knights Table and the Region of Peel

Phone (905) 454-8725 for information

Knights Table



Helping To Alleviate Hunger in Peel Region

Knowledge: Power over addictions

ToughTomes

BY LAURA BILYEA, Librarian
Central Library, Mississauga

Maybe you know addictions; after all, they come in all shapes and sizes.

It's that late-night plate of cookies that are all for you. Perhaps it's that glass of wine before dinner, then a glass during dinner, then a third or fourth afterwards to unwind after the long day. It's those pills you've been taking for months since your surgery—wait, it's been years now.

Maybe you know someone who suffers with addictions. It could be a loved one, whom you find yourself protecting in small ways because maybe it will help them feel safe.

How do we stop these destructive behaviours? How can we understand what we are fighting?

Knowledge is a powerful first step. Here is a list of current books from your local library; read more to learn what addiction is, to see a variety of recovery plans, to hear success stories, and to provide help to those we love.

Blue dreams: the science and the story of the drugs that changed our minds

by Lauren Slater

2018

615. 788 SLA



In her thorough analysis of each treatment, Slater asks three fundamental questions: how was the drug born, how does it work (or fail to work), and what does it reveal about the ailments it is meant to treat?

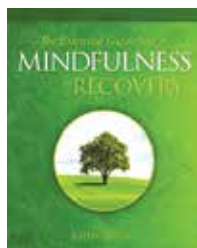
Fearlessly weaving her own intimate experiences into comprehensive and wide-ranging research, Slater narrates a personal history of psychiatry itself. In the process, she casts modern psychiatry's wonder drugs in a new light, revealing their ability to heal us or hurt us, and proves an indispensable resource not only for those with a psychotropic prescription but for anyone who hopes to understand the limits of what we know about the human brain and the possibilities for future treatments.

The essential guidebook to mindfulness in recovery

by John Bruna

2018

616. 8603 BRU



In this self-paced curriculum that integrates mindfulness and its practices with twelve-step recovery, former Buddhist monk

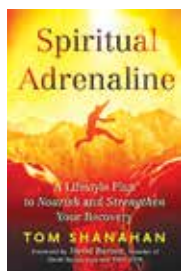
John Bruna outlines the seven skills of living mindfully in recovery. These skills include values, attention, wisdom, equanimity, compassion, loving-kindness, and action - utilizing lessons, meditations, reflections, and other daily practices.

Spiritual adrenaline: a lifestyle plan to nourish and strengthen your recovery

by Tom Shanahan

2019

616.86 SHA



In this inspirational lifestyle plan that integrates nutrition, exercise, and spiritual practices into the proven method of twelve-step recovery, sports nutritionist

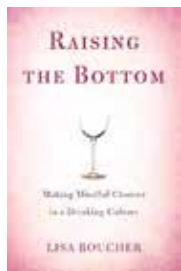
Tom Shanahan outlines a program of action to energize, reboot, and strengthen one's recovery, especially those who feel they may have hit a wall in their program. Spiritual Adrenaline imparts the importance of a holistic approach to fitness, good eating habits, and connection to a personal higher power in order to optimize the guiding principles of the Twelve Steps and reinforce relapse prevention.

Raising the bottom: making mindful choices in a drinking culture

by Lisa Boucher

2017

362.292 BOU



We live in a boozy culture, and the idea of women and wine has become entrenched. Do you crave the release a drink can bring to cope with anxiety,

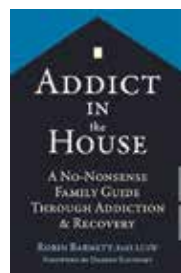
parenthood, the pressures of being a mom, a wife/partner, a professional? In *Raising the Bottom*, mothers, daughters, health professionals, and young women share their stories of why they drank, how they stopped, and the joys and rewards of being present in their lives once they kicked alcohol to the curb.

Addict in the house: a no-nonsense family guide through addiction & recovery

by Robin Barnett

2016

362.29 BAR



Everyone suffers when there's an addict in the family. Drawing on her own personal experience with her brother's addiction, *Addict in the House* offers a

pragmatic, step-by-step guide to dealing with a loved one's addiction, from accepting the reality of the disease to surviving what may be repeated cycles of recovery and relapse. With this revealing and straightforward book, you'll have the support you need to take an honest look at how addiction has affected the family, cope with the emotional hurdles of having an addicted family member, create and maintain firm boundaries, and make informed decisions about how best to help your loved one.

Never enough: the neuroscience and experience of addiction

by Judith Grisel

2019

362.29 GRI



Judith Grisel was a daily drug user and college dropout when she began to consider that her addiction might have a cure, one that she herself could perhaps discover by studying the brain. Now, after 25 years as a neuroscientist, she shares what she and other scientists have learned about addiction, enriched by captivating glimpses of her personal journey. She points to what is different about the brains of addicts even be-

fore they first pick up a drink or drug, highlights the changes that take place in the brain and behavior as a result of chronic using, and shares the surprising hidden gifts of personality that addiction can expose. She describes what drove her to addiction, what helped her recover, and her belief that a "cure" for addiction will not be found in our individual brains but in the way we interact with our communities.

High: everything you want to know about drugs, alcohol, and addiction

by David and Nic Sheff

2019

616.86 SHE



The Sheffs, a father-and-son team, provide all the information teens and tweens need to know about drugs, alcohol, and addiction.

David Sheff, author of *Beautiful Boy* (2008), and Nic Sheff, author of *Tweak: Growing Up on Methamphetamines* (2008), wrote the ultimate resource for learning about the realities of drugs and alcohol for middle grade readers. This book tells it as it is, with testimonials from peers who have been there and families who have lived through the addiction of a loved one, along with the cold, hard facts about what drugs and alcohol do to our bodies. From how to navigate peer pressure to outlets for stress to the potential consequences for experimenting, Nic and David Sheff lay out the facts so that middle grade readers can educate themselves.



GET THE STRESS OUT

12 hours that can change your life

BY NICOLE ALLIN

Feeling worried and stressed, and just can't shake it? Does every-day life feel heavy and burdensome? You wonder – is this normal? Is there something wrong with me?

You're not sure if this is serious enough to take to your doctor, to merit a mental health diagnosis or pills...or maybe you've already tried these things and are still left feeling lost.

Living Life to the Full is a group program that tries to change that. In fact, the program bills itself as “12 hours that can change your life”, a claim backed by research and over nine years of the course being offered in Canada.

The Canadian Mental Health Association Peel Dufferin offers Living Life to the Full groups for everyone from students to retirees.

Created by Dr. Chris Williams, a psychiatrist from the University of Glasgow in Scotland, Living Life to the Full is based on Cognitive Behaviour Therapy – a proven treatment for anxiety, depression, and other mental health problems.

Cognitive Behaviour Therapy helps you examine thoughts, attitudes, and beliefs that may be contributing to difficulties in your life, and it teaches specific skills and strategies for change.

Living Life to the Full teaches these skills in 90-minute group sessions over eight weeks. CMHA Peel Dufferin has six trained Living Life to the Full



facilitators, who are also experienced mental health workers.

The program uses colourful and highly stylized training materials, including glossy booklets which participants can take home -- booklets with titles like Why Does Everything Always Go Wrong, The Bad Thought Spotter and The Amazing Bad-Thought-Busting Program which help participants examine thinking styles and learn how to look at problems differently.

Over the course of the program, these skills help you to feel more optimistic, gain interest in other people and new activities, and feel more confident.

A pilot of the program focused on adults 55+ in Ontario found that 62% of participants reported improvements in their mood, and 75% learned new ways of coping with stress. Three months after completing the program, these participants reported that they continued to experience a more positive mindset and had found greater social support.

Part of what makes this program so effective is providing mental health support outside exclusive mental health settings.

This year, CMHA Peel Dufferin has joined with others, including Central Brampton Family Health Team, Four Corners Health Centre in

Malton, and the Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP) Brampton chapter, to offer Living Life to the Full in primary health care and in community settings.

A standard version of the group is open to anyone over 18. Groups focused on the 50+ are also available.

In a mental health care system where psychiatry can be hard to access, therapy can be costly, and subsidized counselling has long waiting lists, Living Life to the Full groups can bridge the gap for those who need connections and support.

Plans are underway to introduce the program elsewhere, including Orangeville and Caledon. You do not need a mental health diagnosis, or a referral from your doctor to attend.

Thanks to donations from the public and business, CMHA Peel Dufferin can offer this program free of charge to everyone who wants it.

Just phone CMHA Peel Dufferin's Central Intake line to find out when Living Life to the Full groups are scheduled, and where they are taking place. The registration process is simple and requires only a phone call.

To learn more, contact the Canadian Mental Health Association Peel Dufferin at (905) 451-2123 or www.cmbapeeldufferin.ca

Nicole Allin, RSSW (Registered Social Service Worker) is the Community Groups Lead at the Canadian Mental Health Association, Peel Dufferin

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www.lcspeel.ca

EarlyON Centres

Are you a parent or caregiver of a child that is 0-6 years old?

Visit an **EarlyON Child and Family Centre in Peel** and take advantage of free drop-in programs for your family. These Centres are open during the day and evenings, and some locations on the weekends. Check out ontario.ca/earlyon for more information about a Peel location near you.

At these Centres:

Children can...

- Learn through play;
- Spend quality time with their families and other children; and
- Enjoy culturally-relevant programs.

Families can...

- Participate in early learning activities with their children;
- Meet other families
- Learn about early years literacy, health and nutrition; and
- Speak to early years staff and find resources in their community.

